With graduation only a few months away, several members of the class of 2012 are looking forward to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Several students have already committed to various colleges for sports ranging from football to gymnastics.

**Mark Harrell**, **Matt Cincotta**, **David Herlocker**, **Michael Moll**, and **Murphy Swancy** will all be taking their football careers to the next level this fall. Harrell, an offensive lineman, had scholarship offers from renowned programs such as Stanford, Auburn, and Michigan, but decided last May to take his talents to South Bend and join the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Cincotta committed in September to play linebacker and long snapper for the Marshall Thundering Herd, and is expected to step right in and play as a freshman since Marshall’s starting long snapper is graduating this spring. Herlocker will be heading north to Virginia this fall to play defensive back and wide receiver for the Richmond Spiders, and Swancy and Moll will both continue their careers at Appalachian State.

**Lindsay McVeigh** and **Amanda Steiner** helped the women’s soccer team to a state championship last year and hope to build on that success when they join their college teams next year. McVeigh will be playing her college soccer for Appalachian State, while Steiner will be joining the Belmont Abbey squad.

The men’s soccer team, which placed second in the state this past season, will also be sending a player to the college level next year, with **Johnny Archer** committed to play at Presbyterian.

**Ashlyn Koletic** has been a huge reason why the women’s swim team is contending for a state championship yet again this year, and her hard work has paid off with a college scholarship. She considered UNC, Miami University, James Madison University, UNC Wilmington, and South Carolina, but will be joining NC State’s swim team next season.

“I liked the coaches and the team the best over the other schools, and State felt like the best fit for me,” said Koletic.

“The recruiting process was a great opportunity to see the school from a student’s perspective. Instead of just taking a tour of the school I got to stay on and off campus, go to classes, and really get a feel of the school and team,” she said.

The women’s lacrosse team has two members committed to play collegiately this fall, **Megan Patterson** and **Danielle Ruffalo**. Patterson will be laxing for Winthrop, and Ruffalo will be a valuable addition to Belmont Abbey’s squad.

Catholic’s baseball team went deep into the state playoffs last year, largely because of the contributions of infielder **Eddie Hull**. Hull’s accomplishments for the Cougars and for his summer league team have earned him a spot on Wingate’s roster for next spring.

**Kyle Johnson** has been dominating North Carolina high school tennis since his freshman year, and will now take his game to the next level at DePaul University in Chicago. Johnson considered Virginia Tech, UNC Chapel Hill, Tulane, Wofford, Wake Forest, and Notre Dame before deciding to sign with DePaul.

“I decided on DePaul because of playing opportunity. Also I wanted to be in a big city with lots to do, so the location and the academics were well-suited for me. I want to go into Business, maybe finance, and being in downtown Chicago would help me do some cool things,” he said.

“Ever since I was 13 or 14 I have been looking forward to playing college tennis and signing with some D1 school, but I didn't know which one. It was a dream come true when I committed,” said Johnson.

Finally, although Catholic doesn’t have a gymnastics team, **Ryann Anderson** has still pursued her passion for the sport, and will be continuing her career next year at the Air Force Academy.

All these Cougar athletes are relieved that the recruiting process is over and are ready to get to work improving and helping their college teams. Kyle Johnson noted the stresses that came along with being recruited to play a college sport.

“There was a lot of stress because you needed to perform and train hard day in and day out. Also, it was tough because I was always in competition with other recruits around the nation so I had to do better than them to get the spot, and if I didn't then I had to move on and look at other schools,” he said.

Catholic displays athletic excellence in men’s and women’s sports, and these students who have worked hard for four years are rewarded with the opportunity to compete in college.